

Message From the Vice CNO on the Purchase and Presentation of Unit Coins

Unit coins are increasingly popular and their use appears to be on the upswing. All Commanding Officers need to understand the rules for purchasing and presenting such coins. NAVSUPINST 4200.85C governs the purchase and presentation of these coins. Here is a quick summary of the rules.

- Coins purchased with ORF funds may only be given to NON-DOD people such as prominent citizens or foreign diplomats.
- Coins purchased with appropriated funds may only be presented as awards. The presentation of a coin qualifies as an award when given for outstanding performance, specific achievement, or a unique achievement that contributes to command effectiveness. Recommend that coins given as awards be limited in number, accounted for in a written record, and not personalized with the Commanding Officer's name.
- Coins given as gifts, tokens of appreciation, recognition of routine performance of duty, or to instill unit pride are not considered awards. Coins used this way should be purchased using private funds. There are no restrictions on the use of privately bought coins.

If you or any of your command are using unit coins, please take the time to review how they are being used to ensure that their use conforms to current regulations.